



Keswick Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspector.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1942, which has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health dated 16th February, 1940, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received July, 1942, as directed. Considerable curtailment has again been effected.

Members and officials of the Council and many other workers have continued to give loyal service in carrying out all the additional work imposed upon a local authority in connection with the war.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) 1,272.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1942), 5,880
(see page 5)

Number of inhabited houses (end 1942), according to Rate Books, 1,421.

Rateable Value, £35,022.

Sum represented by Penny Rate, £141 13s. 8d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	48	30	18	} Live Birth Rate (R.G.), 8.1
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Still Births		1	1	0	
					0 Still Birth Rate per 1,000
					total (live and still) Births, 20.4

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	78	35	43	Crude Death Rate
(R.G.) 13.2 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.				

Maternal Mortality.—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Childbirth) :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	nil.
Other puerperal Causes	0	nil.
Total		nil.
(All causes England and Wales		2.01)

Infantile Mortality.—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	1
Death Rate „ „ „ „ (approx) :—					
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	21
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	21
Illegitimate „ „ illegitimate „	...	...	...	...	nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0
„ Cancer	...	...	16

KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1942.

The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 1,272.

Social conditions and local industries remain as hitherto. (Unemployment figures will be seen under "Public Assistance"—post).

Meteorological Conditions.—These are shown in a report by Mr. Tom Wilson, Official Observer to the Meteorological Office and Air Ministry, and given at the end of this report.

POPULATION

For 1942 the figure given for the resident population of the district by the Registrar General is 5,880, on which the birth and death rates and the incidence of notifiable diseases are based. (N.B.—Figures relating to non-civilians are excluded.)

(The figure for 1941 was 6,360.)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In the Keswick Urban District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' area, the number of persons in receipt of out-door relief was 28, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 210 of the population, as compared with 1 in 172 in 1941.

Three persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of 1 in 1,960 of the population, as compared with 1 in 2,120 in 1941.

The numbers for 1942 are detailed as follows:—

	Out-door Relief		Total	Indoor Relief
	Ordinary	Unemployed		
Keswick U.D.	22	6	28	3
(1941)	32	5	37	3

VITAL STATISTICS—BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS.—There were 48 Live Births (30 males and 18 females) registered as belonging to the district; none was illegitimate.

The Live Birth Rate was accordingly 8.1 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 8.3 for the previous year. The rate is again a low one.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Birth Rates, 1942—Cumberland	...	...	...	16.8
Rural Districts of Cumberland	..			17.0
Urban Districts of Cumberland	.			16.5
England and Wales	...	...		15.8
Keswick Urban District	...			8.1

There were no illegitimate births, so that the percentage of Illegitimate Live Births was therefore nil., as compared with 1.8 in 1941.

5

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1942

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Males	Females
ALL CAUSES						35	43
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
4.	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	1
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	2	1
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...
11.	Ac : Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...
12.	Ac : inf : encephalitis	...	...	...	...
13.	Caneer of b : cav : and oesoph : (M.) Uterns (F.)	..					
14.	„ stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	2
15.	„ breast	...	...	...	...		4
16.	„ all other sites	...	...	...	...	5	4
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...		1
18.	Intra-cran : vase : lesions	...	...	...	...	5	5
19.	Heart Dis :	...	...	...	...	7	12
20.	Other Dis : of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	1	3
21.	Bronehitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
22.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...		2
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...
24.	Ulcer : of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...		1
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion : sepsis	...	...	...	...
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	
32.	Congen : malform : birth inj : infant dis.	...	...	...	...	1	
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...		1
34.	Road Traffic acc :	...	...	...	...	1	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	5	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total						1	
Legitimate						1	
Illegitimate							

						For 1 M., etc., B. Rate.		For M. F.	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS	}	TOTAL	...	...	...	30	18	—	—
		Legitimate	...	...	...	30	18	—	—
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
STILL BIRTHS	}	TOTAL	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
		Legitimate	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

POPULATION (for Births and Deaths)—1942—R.G.—

- (a) for B.R. }
- (b) for D.R.'s and incidence of notifiable diseases } 5,880

STILL BIRTHS.—There was one still birth (legitimate) registered, so that the still birth rate was .17 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with nil., the same as in 1941. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.54.)

The still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births was, therefore, also, 20.4, as compared with nil. in 1941.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Keswick was 78. This gives a crude death rate of 13.2 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 13.3 for the previous year. An Adjusting or Area Comparability Factor has not been provided by the Registrar General for 1942, so the adjusted death rate cannot be given.

Comparisons :—

	Crude
Death Rates, 1942—Cumberland	12.2
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	11.8
Urban Districts of Cumberland ...	12.7
England and Wales	11.6
Keswick Urban District ...	13.2

INFANTILE MORTALITY

There was only one death among infants under one year of age, so that the Infantile Mortality Rate was 20.8 per 1,000 births, as compared with two deaths and a rate of 37.7 in 1941.

The death was of an infant of four days old and due to premature birth and hæmorrhagic disease of the new born.

The Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate (again no deaths) per 1,000 illegitimate births, and the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate (one death) per 1,000 legitimate births, were respectively nil. and 20.8. These latter rates were nil. and 36.3 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows :—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1942 :—

Cumberland	57
Rural Districts of Cumberland	55
Urban Districts of Cumberland	60
England and Wales... ..	49
Keswick Urban District (approx.) ...	21

SENILE DEATH RATE

47 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile Death Rate of 60.2 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 65.8 for 1941.

Out of the total 47 deaths :—

6 (3 m. 3 f.)	persons died between the ages of 65 and 70 years
11 (3 m. 8 f.)	„ „ „ 70 and 75 years
15 (4 m. 11 f.)	„ „ „ 75 and 80 years
9 (6 m. 3 f.)	„ „ „ 80 and 85 years
3 (f.)	„ „ „ 85 and 90 years
3 (m.)	„ „ at ages 90, 91, and 92 years respectively.

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year, there were three inquests. No inquests were held within the district in respect of non-residents. Two deaths were "Uncertified."

No Coroner's certificates were received of cases where post-mortem examination had been made, but no inquest held.

VIOLENCE.—The death rate due to Violence (all forms) was 0.51 per 1,000 of the population in the Keswick Urban District. Below will be seen the number of deaths from Suicide, Road Traffic Accident, Other Violence and the Total Violence Deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates from each per 1,000 of the population :—

	Suicide		Road Traffic Acc.		Other Violence excluding Road Traffic Acc.		Total Violence	
	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941
Deaths ...	1	nil.	2	nil.	nil.	1	3	1
% of all causes.	1.28	nil.	2.56	nil.	nil.	1.17	3.84	1.17
Death Rate per 1,000 popu- lation ...	.17	nil.	.339	nil.	nil.	.15	.51	.15

The three violence deaths during the year include 2 due to road traffic accidents and 1 to drowning.

CANCER

Cancer proved fatal in 16 cases, as follows :—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females	Years
Alimentary	Stomach	1	2	90, 63, 76
	Bowel	1	1	63, 85
	Rectum	1	1	84, 68
	Peritoneum		1	68
Glandular	Breast		4	41, 61, 79, 80
	Thyroid	1		64
Respiratory	Lung		1	78
Osseous	...			
Reproductive	...			
Other	“ Postericoid ”		1	75
	Lympho-Sarcoma	1		81
Totals	...	5	11	

This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 2.7 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 2.6 in 1941.

Approximately out of every 5 deaths of persons belonging to this district 1 was due to cancer.

TUBERCULOSIS

(Vide also page 13).

There were 3 deaths due to Tuberculosis :—

	Males	Females
Respiratory System ...	2	1
Non-Pulmonary ...	0	0

All three cases were previously notified in this district

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of 0.51 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.31 for 1941.

The death rate for tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is also 0.51 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.15 for 1941.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health
2. One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Jenkins, who is also the Surveyor and Water Engineer, is a Fellow of the Chartered Surveyors' Institute (by examination), and possesses the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and the Special Meat Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Miss J. Dover has acted as temporary junior clerk in the Surveyor's Office since the calling up of Mr. B. Tuffield to H.M. Forces.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with the investigations of certain cases of illness during the year 1942 :—

Material	Examination for :	Result :	
		Pos.	Neg.
Throat or Nose Swabs	Diphtheria Bac.	5	28
Ditto	Streptoc.	3	3
Sputum	Tubercle Bac.	0	7
Faeces	„ „	0	1

Speaking generally, other particulars relating to Health Services (e.g. Hospitals, Nursing, Maternity, Ambulance Facilities, etc.), remained unchanged.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

There is little change to report for 1942.

The high purity of the town's water supply was maintained as indicated in the results of examination of five samples taken throughout the year.

Installation of the chlorination plant (of Messrs. Wallace and Tiernan) was practically completed but was not put into operation during the year under review.

WATER MAINS.—The Surveyor informs me there were no extensions or work of major importance during 1942.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No sewer extensions were carried out in 1942. The Surveyor informs me the sewage effluent from the Outfall Works continued to be satisfactory. The sludge was extensively used by farmers and the local Allotment and Gardeners' Association.

Closet Accommodation.—Unchanged.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse proceeds as formerly.

Negotiations entered into in the previous year culminated in the purchase by the Council in 1942 of approximately 38 acres of land adjoining and including the present ash-tip, thereby solving the problem of land for use as a refuse-tip for many years to come.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The sanitary inspection of the district is undertaken by Mr. J. Jenkins, who is also the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer. It is with pleasure I again record my appreciation of his willing co-operation at all times, and I gratefully acknowledge his assistance in the making of this report.

Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article XIX of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926.

Premises inspected during the year ...	...	...	...	151
Nuisances or defects discovered ...	...	...	...	143
Do. do. remedied after informal notice ...	...	...	...	121
Do. do. do. statutory do. ...	...	...	...	9
Housing Inspections under Public Health or Housing Acts				74
Factories Inspections ...	...	...	...	56

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1942, and it will be seen that 23 premises were on the register. 56 inspections by the Sanitary Inspector revealed 9 defects, which were all remedied

Premises	Number	Inspec- tions	Defects Found	Written Notices	Defects Remedied	Prose- cutions
Factories with mec- hancial power	7	24	4	4	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	16	32	5	5	5	—
Other Premises under the Act	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	23	56	9	9	9	—

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No change. Periodical inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector co-operates with officials of the County Council. Poison is still available at the Council Offices free of charge. The refuse tip continues to be occasionally baited with rat poison.

HOUSING

Housing conditions relating to working class dwellings show little change, and no new house was built.

The position regarding renovation and repair work generally remains difficult.

No action was taken under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

HOUSING APPENDIX.

(in accordance with Circular 1728 Ministry of Health, 25th Oct., 1938)

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	74
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	102
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	87
---	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—No action taken.

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part iv.—Overcrowding :—No action taken.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
MILK SUPPLY.

There were 6 registered milk-sellers whose premises were within the Urban District, all being producers and retailers. Inspections continue to be made periodically.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producers and retailers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were 8 of such producers and retailers during 1942.

The table below gives the results of 24 samples of milk retailed in the town and taken during 1942 by the Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Of the 24 samples, 15 were satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory in relation to dirt contamination, as follows :—

	Satisfactory according to Accredited Standards	Unsatisfactory according to Accredited Standards	Total
Samples produced in Urban District	8	3	11
„ „ outside „	7	6	13
	—	—	—
	15	9	24

The 9 unsatisfactory samples comprised :—

7	failing the Methylene Blue Reduction test only ;
0	„ B. Coli test only (i.e., showing B. Coli in 2 or 3 tubes out of 3), and
2	„ Combined test.

All samples tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli proved negative (the same as in 1941).

On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by veterinary officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I am kindly informed by Mr. John Cameron, Divisional Inspector of that Authority, that in so far as the Urban District of Keswick was concerned, one cow (in milk) was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, during the year under review, the type of disease found at Post Mortem being Tuberculosis with chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs.

The only milk under “ Special Designation ” produced in the Keswick Urban District was by Mr. Martin Raven, High Hill Farm, who is also a large retailer.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—No change from the previous year.

The following is a summary of meat condemned (owing to disease or putrefaction, etc.), together with other foods for which condemnation certificates were issued by the Sanitary Inspector :—

- 12 Bovine carcasses with 1 forequarter, 1 set of offal, 101 livers, 25 part-livers and 10 udders ;
- 14 Sheep carcasses with 1 forequarter and 1 leg, 76 plucks, 6 livers and 2 part livers ;
- 1 Leg of Pork ;
- 36 lbs. Fish ;
- 204 lbs. Butter and 51 lbs. sweetened liquid milk in tins.

A quantity of other foodstuffs including 36½ lbs. tinned meat, 54 lbs. oranges, 164 lbs. bread, 499 cakes (of which 129 were tea-cakes, 270 small cakes and 100 gingerbreads, Madeira cakes, etc.).

BAKEHOUSES.—Six were in existence ; they were periodically inspected and generally found in a cleanly condition, though one informal notice was necessary and was immediately complied with.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1942 in the Keswick Urban District (including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis) and excluding Measles and Whooping Cough, was 12.

(Vide post re notification of Measles and Whooping Cough).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1942.

Disease				Total cases notified	Cases notified 1942 admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	1	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	8	7	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	0
Measles	...	...	...	7	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	0	0
Tuberculosis :—						
	Males			1	1 (San:)	0
Pulmonary	Females			1	1 „	0
	Males			0	0	0
Non-Pulmonary	Females			0	0	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable Diseases, 1942 :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1												1
Diphtheria ...				4	3						1		8
C-S Meningitis ..	1												1
Measles ...					1				6				7
Whooping Cough				1									1
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary ...			1		1								2
Other Forms .													0

From notifications received it is deducted that approximately one in every 490 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough excluded) and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figure, 1 in 1,272, and in 1928 it was 1 in 177.)

There was only one case of Scarlet Fever notified in 1942, with ensuing recovery, so that the case rate and death rate per 1,000 of the population were respectively .17 and nil., these rates for England and Wales being 2.19 and .00.

There were eight notifications of Diphtheria (4 in April, 3 in May, and 1 in November), two of the cases occurring in the same household and one of them, the first of all, was an evacuee who in all probability brought infection with him on his return from visiting his home on the East Coast. These two and another which occurred in November died. None of these three had been inoculated previously against Diphtheria. Of the remaining five cases, three had not previously been immunised, whilst two had received immunising doses (.1 and .3 c.c. A.P.T.) not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease though symptoms were mild. The case rate and death rate of this disease, therefore, were respectively 1.3 and .51 per 1,000 of the population, those for England and Wales being respectively 1.05 and .05.

Throughout the country a campaign of immunisation against Diphtheria which had been initiated by the Minister of Health was continued. By the end of 1942 in this district it was estimated that approximately 86.3 per cent. of children under 15 years of age received the two immunising doses of A.P.T. (Alum præcipitated toxoid) as sponsored by the M. of Health. In splitting up the children immunised under 15 years into two age groups the figures work out as follows :—Under 5 years 41.9 per cent., and 5 to 15 years 83.2 per cent.

(N.B.—Infants under one year of age are not inoculated).

I have again had the welcome co-operation of the local medical practitioners, head teachers, and the County Health Visitor, Miss Lawson.

One case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis was notified (in January); the patient was removed to hospital and recovery ensued.

As in the previous eleven years, no case of Puerperal Pyrexia was recorded. The case rate for this disease (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is :—Puerperal Pyrexia, nil. per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still births) registered during the year. The corresponding rate (1942) for England and Wales was 12.61. Again no maternal deaths occurred—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternal Mortality Rate of nil. per 1,000 total (live and still births), the same as in 1941. The rate (1942) for England and Wales was 2.01 (all causes).

PNEUMONIA.—No notifications were received. The registered deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) numbered 2.

Similar to the previous year, there were no notifications of Typhoid (including Para-typhoid) Fever, Poliomyelitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations two cases (1 m. 1 f.) of Pulmonary were notified, but nil, of Other Forms of Tuberculosis. Both cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1942 :—

		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 —& upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
(Untraced—R.G.)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 7.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1942 was as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	10	5	15
Non-pulmonary	3	10	13
All Cases .	13	15	28

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state, and employed in connection with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was, again, not markedly prevalent, but 2 deaths were attributed to this disease, so that the influenza death rate was .34 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with nil. in 1941. (The rate, 1942, for England and Wales, was .09.)

Re Measles and Whooping Cough (which became notifiable as from 1st November, 1939).—There were again 7 cases of Measles notified (1 May, 6 Sept.), whilst only one Whooping Cough notification was received (April).

The case rates of Measles and Whooping Cough (as per notifications) were respectively 1.1 and .17 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 7.46 and 1.73 for all England and Wales.

No death occurred from either Measles or Whooping Cough (as in the previous year), so that the death rates were nil. per 1,000 of the population, as compared with .01 and .02, respectively, for England and Wales.

There were no school closures due to epidemic disease during the year.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION

Height above sea level, 254 ft. Lat. 54° 36' N. Long. 3° 9' W.

RETURNS FOR 1942

RAINFALL						SUNSHINE				
MONTH	AMOUNT		Greatest Fall on one day	Average 40 years	AMOUNT		Average 40 years			
	Inches	Days			HOURS	DAYS				
Jan. ...	4.67	on 14	1.08 on 3rd	6.25	18.1	on 10	35.1			
Feb. ...	2.36	„ 12	.81 „ 28th	4.57	65.6	„ 17	53.3			
March ...	3.02	„ 12	.73 „ 7th	4.04	77.8	„ 18	98.8			
April ...	3.88	„ 9	.93 „ 4th	2.96	208.2	„ 24	129.8			
May ...	4.81	„ 15	.78 „ 24th	3.19	198.1	„ 27	177.3			
June ...	1.20	„ 7	.49 „ 12th	3.10	174.3	„ 28	183.5			
July ...	3.47	„ 18	1.01 „ 22nd	4.29	135.9	„ 28	158.2			
August ..	6.40	„ 19	1.12 „ 8th	5.01	74.6	„ 25	140.1			
Sept. ...	8.50	„ 21	2.84 „ 4th	4.37	109.1	„ 24	121.5			
October..	7.44	„ 22	2.05 „ 9th	6.73	38.8	„ 21	79.1			
Nov. ...	1.70	„ 8	.69 „ 6th	5.59	44.1	„ 22	26.8			
Dec. ...	10.12	„ 25	2.64 „ 10th	6.54	18.6	„ 9	26.5			
Totals	57.57	„ 182			1163.2	„ 253				

TEMPERATURES

	HIGHEST MAXIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (in screen)	LOWEST MINIMUM (on grass)	Nights Frost	Wind at Gale Force	Snow Lying
Jan. ..	53.0 on 3rd	22.0 on 6th	15.0 on 6th	22	...	5
Feb. ..	48.0 „ 10th	19.0 „ 20th	11.0 „ 20th	26	...	2
Mar. ..	59.0 „ 24th	26.0 „ 5th	19.0 „ 8th	14	...	...
April .	68.0 „ 15th	28.0 „ 22nd	24.0 „ 22nd	5	...	...
May ..	65.0 „ 16th	30.0 „ 3rd	20.0 „ 3rd	7	...	...
June .	81.0 „ 5th	37.0 „ 11th	30.0 „ 11th	1	...	...
July ..	76.0 „ 2nd	41.0 „ 17th	33.0 „ 1st	...	...	...
Aug. .	78.0 „ 28th	44.0 „ 5th	36.0 „ 5th	...	...	...
Sept. .	68.1 „ 1st	36.0 „ 27th	30.0 „ 26th	2	...	...
Oct....	63.0 „ 14th	35.0 „ 28th	28.0 „ 28th	2	1	...
Nov. .	53.0 „ 6 & 9	21.0 „ 14th	14.0 „ 22nd	20	...	...
Dec. ..	56.0 „ 21st	20.0 „ 2nd	13.0 „ 2nd	9	1	...
Totals				108	2	

WIND						EARTH TEMPERATURES			
Month	Calm	North Quadrant	South Quadrant	East Quadrant	West Quadrant	Highest 1 ft.	Lowest 1 ft.	Highest 4 ft.	Lowest 4 ft.
January ...	11	4	6	5	5	44.0	34.8	46.3	41.6
February ...	11	2	2	10	3	36.6	32.1	41.5	39.8
March ...	9	...	13	7	2	43.6	32.6	41.6	39.0
April ...	5	...	7	16	2	49.0	42.5	45.5	41.4
May ...	5	4	13	4	5	53.9	47.5	49.0	45.4
June ...	7	2	10	2	9	62.7	56.3	53.2	49.3
July ...	6	1	8	...	16	64.0	60.7	55.2	53.3
August ...	12	3	8	3	5	65.1	60.0	56.7	55.5
September ...	4	2	5	5	14	64.1	58.2	57.5	55.7
October ...	7	4	7	1	12	59.1	51.0	57.7	52.7
November ...	22	3	2	...	3	52.3	44.0	52.4	47.6
December ...	11	3	11	...	6	46.7	43.8	47.5	46.1
	110	28	92	53	82				

ABNORMAL PRECIPITATION

Nov. 2nd and 3rd, 1931, 6.16 inches in 36 hours
November 3rd, 1931, 4.86 ,,
November 12th, 1938, 3.37 ,,
November 4th, 1926, 3.32 inches in 9½ hours
December 24th, 1925, 3.50 ,,
August 2nd, 1923, 3.00 ,,
July 13th, 1932, 2.56 inches in 5 hours
December 2nd, 1902, 3.12 ,,

SUNDRY NOTES

Visibility less than 1,100 yards, 9 days
More than 1 inch of rain fell on 7 days
More than 2 inches of rain fell on 3 days
Warmest day, 81.0 on June 5th
Coldest night, 11.0 on February 20th.
Rainless days, 202.
Nights frost, 108
Wind at gale force, 2 days

THE WEATHER OF 1942

JANUARY	The year commenced with a mild spell. On the 3rd more than 1 inch of rain fell. Intermittent frost and several slight falls of snow, hail and sleet. None serious.
FEBRUARY	Was heralded by snow, and the remainder of the month was frosty (26 nights). Skating was enjoyed for most of the month, the lakes being frozen.
MARCH	Gave us 21 dry days, 14 nights frost, cold and not very cheerful.
APRIL	The first ten days were wet, then followed a long, dry spell with little cloud. A sufficiency of bright sunshine (208 hours), 50 per cent. above normal.
MAY	The dry spell continued for nearly two weeks. A showery period followed. Blossom of all kinds lit up the countryside in great profusion. Apple, Pear, Plum and Cherry in the orchards, Wild Blossom in the hedgerows, in flagrant defiance of the would-be dictator over the North Sea and a cheerful gesture to the people who trust in a divine architect. A bumper harvest will indeed result.
JUNE	Fine and dry, with a short warm spell. A really beautiful month.
JULY	Showery and cold.
AUGUST	Cool, wet and cloudy; only 50 per cent. of normal sunshine. A great disappointment to most people, particularly farmers, who were still struggling with hay crops. Heather came into bloom early and lasted about 14 days.
SEPTEMBER	Another wet month, with a slight flood (2.86 inches of rain on the 4th). The harvest was cut early, a fine week saw much housed. The remainder still waited for another fine spell. Cool nights. A wonderful fruit harvest.
OCTOBER	Wet and cold, with a severe gale and heavy rain. Corn still stands in the fields.
NOVEMBER	Fine and dry. Considerable cloud. Frost on 20 nights.
DECEMBER	Very wet and stormy. Rain fell on 25 days. Low temperatures.

The year can be divided into two halves. January to June, fine and dry (19.95 inches of rain); July to December, cold and wet (37.52 inches).

The outstanding feature was the abnormal fruit crop. Grass and corn crops were heavy, but owing to the bad weather at harvest time, much was left in the fields locally. The Honey crop was fair during the early part, but heather was a decided failure.

September and December both provided heavy rainstorms, which should normally have provided bigger floods. Possibly Thirlmere was able to retain most of the fall in that area, thus easing the River Greta below.

TOM WILSON,

Observer to Meteorological Society.

